

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): A spark plug comprising:

a central electrode;

an insulating member disposed on the outside of said central electrode;

a main metal shell disposed on the outside of said insulating member, the main metal shell having a base portion; and

a ground electrode disposed opposite to said central electrode such that a spark discharge gap is formed; and

a ring-shaped gasket to be fitted to the base portion of said main metal shell,

wherein a surface of the gasket is coated with a chromate film including trivalent chrome,

and

wherein said chromate film contains chrome components in which a ratio of the trivalent chrome is 95% or more

~~wherein the surface of said main metal shell is coated with a chromate film including trivalent chrome.~~

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/802,719

26. (currently amended): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein said chromate film ~~contains trivalent chrome by 95 wt% or more of contained chrome components and~~ having a thickness of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

27. (currently amended): The spark plug according to ~~claim 26~~ claim 25, wherein said chromate film substantially contains no ~~chrome component~~ hexavalent chrome.

28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): The spark plug according to ~~claim 26~~ claim 25, wherein the content of sodium components contained in said chromate film is 2 wt % to 7 wt %.

30. (currently amended): The spark plug according to ~~claim 26~~ claim 25, wherein said ~~main metal shell or both of said main metal shell and said gasket are~~ gasket is coated with a zinc-plated film ~~has as~~ as a base metal layer for said chromate film.

31. (currently amended): The spark plug according to ~~claim 26~~ claim 25, wherein when chapter five “neutral salt water spray test” of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/802,719

32. (currently amended): The spark plug according to ~~claim 26~~claim 25, wherein when heating at 200°C, in the atmosphere for 30 minutes is performed and chapter five “neutral salt water spray test” of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.